

Message Text

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5700

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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SUBJECT: RABIN ON US GUARANTEES AND EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS

REF: FBIS TEL AVIV 21 1928 Z FEB 75

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER RABIN, IN FEBRUARY 21 INTERVIEW, FURTHER DEVELOPED HIS CURRENT VIEWS ON ISSUES CONNECTED WITH NEGOTIATION OF SECOND-STAGE EGYPT-ISRAELI AGREEMENT. MAIN THEMES WERE: GOI HAS NOTASKED FOR US DEFENSE PACT NOR FOR US-SOVIET GUARANTEES; SUPERPOWER GUARANTEES CANNOT SUBSTITUTE FOR NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT BETWEEN PARTIES; WHICH PROVIDE ISRAEL WITH DEFENSIBLE BORDERS; ISRAEL'S SECURITY DEPENDS ON ITS ABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF WITH ITS OWN STRENGTH; KEY TO PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE IS CAIRO-JERUSALEM RELATIONSHIP, INCLUDING FACE TO FACE CONTACTS AT SOME STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR BOTH INTERIM AND OVERALL SETTLEMENTS; EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI INTERIM AGREEMENT MUST NOT BE LINKED TO OTHER FRONTS; GOI HAS MANDATE TO AGREE TO TERRITORIAL WITHDRAWALS IN SINAI WITHOUT NEW ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

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2. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM RABIN'S FEB 21 ISRAEL

RADIO INTERVIEW ON CURRENT NEGOTIATING SITUATION BASED ON
FBIS REF:.

3. ISRAELI -US DEFENSE PACT: QUOTE...THE PREVIOUS ISRAELI
GOVERNMENT- AS FAR AS I KNOW- AND DEFINITELY THE PRESENT
GOVERNMENT, HAVE NOT MADE ANY REQUEST TO THE UNITED STATES
CONCERNING A DEFENSE PACT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND
ISRAEL...THE MAIN REASON IS THAT IN OUR VIEW WE ALWAYS
SAW THE NEED FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL TO HAVE THE STRENGTH TO
DEFEND ITSELF. HENCE, OUR DEMAND FOR DEFENSIBLE BORDERS AND
OUR REQUEST TO THE UNITED STATES TO HELP US OBTAIN THE ARMS
REQUIRED FOR ISRAEL'S DEFENSE...ISRAEL HAS REGARDED ITSELF,
AND CONTINUES TO REGARD ITSELF, AS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR
ITS DEFENSE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT.
END QUOTE.

4. PREMISES OF ISRAELI SECURITY. QUOTE...THE BASIC PRINCIPLE
SHOULD REMAIN THAT ISRAEL IS THE SUBJECT, THE PARTY WHICH IS
CAPABLE OF DEFENDING ITSELF WITH ITS OWN STRENGTH...ISRAEL'S
POSITION AND POLITICAL CONTENTION IS THAT IT SHOULD ACHIEVE
A PEACE SETTLEMENT BETWEEN ITSELF AND THE ARAB STATES, THAT
IN SUCH A PEACE SETTLEMENT THE BORDERS WILL BE BASED ON
DEFENSIBLE POSITIONS, AND THAT IT SHOULD NOT WITHDRAW TO THE
BORDERS OF 4 JUNE 1967-ALL THIS IS BASED ON THE BASIC ISRAELI
STAND THAT ISRAEL CONTINUES TO CLAIM THAT ITS DEFENSE DEPENDS
ON ITS ABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF. FURTHER, I THINK THAT THE MOMENT
THAT ISRAEL'S FATE--IN ANY MATTER RELATED TO THE DEFENSE
OF ITS EXISTENCE--SLIPS OUT OF ITS HAND, IT WILL BE ANOTHER ISRAEL,
AND ISRAEL WHICH IS AT THE MERCY OF SOMEONE ELSE. END QUOTE.

5. SUPERPOWER GUARANTEES AND SOVIET MIDEAST INVOLVEMENT
QUOTE...IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT--I MEAN THE ARAB-
ISRAELI CONFLICT, GUARANTEES BY THE TWO SUPERPOWERS HAVE
NO SIGNIFICANCE...I DOUBT WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE
AT ALL TO ACHIEVE PEACE WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE SOVIET
UNION, AND THEREFORE I FEAR THAT THE ONLY WAY TO ADVANCE
TOWARD PEACE IS WITHOUT THE SOVIET UNION'S ACTIVE INTER-
VENTION. END QUOTE.

6. EGYPTAIN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS. BEGIN QUOTE...THE
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WAY TO PEACE IS BASICALLY BETWEEN CAIRO AND JERUSALEM...I
AM ALSO PREPARED FOR THE CONTACTS IN THE FIRST STAGE OF
NEGOTIATIONS TO BE HELD INDIRECTLY, THROUGH THE GOOD
OFFICES OF THE UNITED STATES. BUT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES
DO I SEE ANY POSSIBILITY OF ACHIEVING ANY AGREEMENT--
NEITHER AN INTERIM AGREEMENT, AND CERTAINLY NOT AN OVERALL
AGREEMENT--WITHOUT, AT SOME STAGE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS,
FACE-TO-FACE CONTACTS BETWEEN ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES AND

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARAB COUNTRY WITH WHICH WE REACH
AN AGREEMENT...END QUOTE.

7. NO LINKAGE WITH SYRIA. BEGIN QUOTE...AT THE MEMENT
THE QUESTION IS OF AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND
ISRAEL--A SEPARATE SETTLEMENT WHICH WILL STAND ON ITS OWN
AND UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE BE LINKED WITH OR CONTINGENT UPON
WHAT WILL OR WILL NOT HAPPEN IN ISRAEL'S RELATIONS TOWARD
ITS OTHER ARAB NEIGHBORS. WITHOUT CLEAR EGYPTAIN STANDS
I DOUBT IF THERE IS ANY POINT IN DR. KISSINGER'S FORTHCOMIN
VISIT. END QUOTE.

8. IMPLICATION OF GOI DECISIONS. BEGIN QUOTE. ...WE WILL
HAVE TO MAKE DECISIONS. AND DECISIONS WILL BE DIFFICULT
BECAUSE THE REJECTION OF ONE OR ANTOEHR OF THESE
WHICH MAY BE PRESENTED BY EGYPT WILL HAVE ITS IMPLICATIONS.
IT WILL HAVE AN IMPLICATION ON THE DIRCTION OF THE DEVELOP-
MENT OF EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. END QUOTE.

9. GOI'S MANDATE. BEGIN QUOTE...IN ANY MATTER RELATD
TO AN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT THIS GOVERNMENT HAS A
COMPLETE MANDATE TO MAKE ANY DECISION WHICH IT CONSIDERS A
DECISION WHICH PROMOTES PEACE THROUGH THE REDUCTION OF THE
DANGERS TO ISRAEL, AND I THINK THAT THE GOVERNEMTN WILL
MAKE DECISIONS EVEN IF THEY ARE DIFFICULT...IF WE SHOULD
FACE A PEACE AGREEMENT WITH JORDAN, AND SUCH AN AGREEMENT
REQUIRD TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA, THE
GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ADOPT A DECISION ON THE MATTER WITHOUT
BRINGING IT TO THE PEOPLE TO DECIDE IN ELECTIONS. IN NO
OTHER SITUATION DO I SEE A NEED TO RESORT TO ELECTIONS.
END QUOTE.
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